

For Immediate Release

LSU Interim Hospital Opens Outpatient Clinic at O. Perry Walker High School

School-based health center will provide comprehensive care to students

Baton Rouge (October 17, 2007) – The LSU Interim Hospital will hold a ribbon-cutting and press conference for the opening of the outpatient school-based health center at O. Perry Walker College and Career Preparatory High School Wednesday, October 17, 2007, at 10:00 AM, at 2832 General Meyer Avenue in New Orleans.

“Quality health care begins with preventive care,” said Dr. Michael Kaiser, acting chief medical officer of the LSU Health Care Services Division and a pediatrician. “This clinic will be in the school, offering accessible health care in the medical home model, regardless of the student’s ability to pay.”

The health center will be open 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, when school is in session. It will be closed when the school is closed.

The health center will have a full-time nurse practitioner, expanded role registered nurse, behavioral health counselor and case manager, regular access to an on-site pediatrician as well as other services.

With an emphasis on prevention, the clinic will provide comprehensive routine examinations, sports physicals, hearing and vision screens, immunizations, injury prevention, evidence-based chronic disease management (treatment for hypertension, obesity, diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia, and asthma), nonemergent acute care, sexually-transmitted disease screenings and treatment, stop-smoking programs, and assistance with obtaining needed medications.

“The clinic can give students the prompt attention that can prevent minor illness from becoming major,” said Dr. Dwayne Thomas, hospital administrator for LSU Interim Hospital. “We’ll also work with other health-care providers so that students can receive comprehensive health services.”

The clinic will collaborate with the Metropolitan Human Services District (MHSD) and others to provide treatment for behavioral, mental-health, and addictive disorders; access to developmental disabilities services; and case management.

For patients under 18 years of age, the clinic will collaborate with Children's Hospital and the pediatrics departments of the LSU and Tulane health sciences centers to provide diagnostic imaging, procedures, and labs; hospitalization and subspecialty access; and dental care through public-private partnerships.

"O. Perry Walker has tried to create a holistic approach to the education of our students, and dealing with their physical well-being is as vital as their academic health. With the immediate availability of the clinic, students can assume responsibility for their health and know there is a safe place for them to turn," said Mary Laurie, principal of O. Perry Walker. "The on-campus clinic will also serve as a window onto the health professions and may stimulate students' interest in health-care careers."

Baptist Community Ministries coordinated the partnership between LSU and the Algiers Charter Schools Association, providing expert consulting and service-delivery planning, and assisted in securing a grant for \$140,000 from the Office of Public Health for clinic operations, including \$40,000 for behavioral health services, which MHSD will provide.

School Health Connections, which is funded primarily by the Kellogg Foundation, coordinated the renovation of the school site for the clinic.

The fifth largest public hospital system in the country, the LSU Health Care Services Division is the medical provider for almost 20% of Louisiana's population. It has over 60,000 admissions, 350,000 patient days, 1 million outpatient visits, and over 350,000 emergency department visits. Each year 1700 residents from the LSU and Tulane Schools Of Medicine and Ochsner Health System and 4,000 nurses and allied health students from many colleges and universities are trained in LSU HCSD facilities.

LSU HCSD is the largest single provider of uncompensated inpatient care in Louisiana and provides over 95% of the health care for Louisiana's prisoners. LSU hospitals have an economic impact of over \$1.6 billion in asset business activity, \$918 million in personal earnings, and support over 10,000 jobs.

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